

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A porous membrane of vinylidene fluoride resin, consisting essentially of: a copolymer obtained by copolymerization of 100 mols of a vinylidene fluoride monomer and 0.01 – 10.0 mols of a hydrophilic monomer having at least one species of hydrophilic group selected from epoxy group, hydroxy group, carboxy group, ester group, amide group and acid anhydride group, wherein the porous membrane has a tensile strength of at least 5 MPa.
2. (Original) A porous membrane according to Claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic monomer is at least one epoxy group-containing vinyl monomer selected from the group-containing vinyl monomer selected from the group consisting of glycidyl (meth)acrylate, 2-methylglycidyl (meth)acrylate, 2-ethylglycidyl (meth)acrylate and 1-methylglycidyl (meth)acrylate, and glycidyl allyl ether.
3. (Original) A porous membrane according to Claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic monomer is at least one hydroxy group-containing vinyl monomer selected from the group consisting of hydroxyethyl methacrylate and hydroxyethyl acrylate.
4. (Original) A porous membrane according to Claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic monomer is at least one carboxy group-containing vinyl monomer selected from the group consisting of monomethyl maleate, monoethyl maleate, monomethyl citraconate, monoethyl citraconate, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid and β -methacryloyloxyethyl hydrogen succinate.
5. (Original) A porous membrane according to Claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic monomer is at least one ester group-containing vinyl monomer selected from the group consisting of vinyl acetate, 2-(N,N-diethylamino)ethyl acrylate, 2-(N,N-dimethylamino)ethyl methacrylate, 2-(N,N-diethylamino)ethyl methacrylate, vinylene carbonate and vinyl propionate.

6. (Original) A porous membrane according to Claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic monomer is at least one amide group-containing vinyl monomer selected from the group consisting of diacetone-acrylamide, methacrylamide, N-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-acrylamide, N-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-methacrylamide, N,N-dimethyl-acrylamide, N-isopropyl-acrylamide, and N,N-diethyl-acrylamide.
7. (Original) A porous membrane according to Claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic monomer is at least one acid anhydride group-containing vinyl monomer selected from the group consisting of maleic anhydride and citraconic anhydride.
8. (Previously presented) A porous membrane according to Claim 1, wherein the vinylidene fluoride copolymer has a melting point of 150 – 180 °C.
9. (Previously presented) A porous membrane according to Claim 1, wherein the vinylidene fluoride copolymer has an inherent viscosity of 0.5 – 5 dl/g.
10. (Previously presented) A porous membrane according to Claim 1, which is in the form of a hollow fiber.
11. (Previously presented) A porous membrane according to Claim 1, which has been treated with a basic solution.
12. (Currently amended) A process for producing a porous membrane of vinylidene fluoride resin comprising: mixing 100 wt. parts of a vinylidene fluoride resin including a copolymer obtained by copolymerization of 100 mols of a vinylidene fluoride monomer and 0.01 – 10.0 mols of a hydrophilic monomer having at least one species of hydrophilic group selected from epoxy group, hydroxy group, carboxy group, ester group, amide group and acid anhydride group with 70 – 250 wt. parts of a plasticizer and 5 – 80 wt. parts of a good solvent for the copolymer to provide a composition; melt-extruding the composition into a film; cooling the

film preferentially one side thereof to solidify the film; extracting the plasticizer; and further stretching the film, wherein the porous membrane has a tensile strength of at least 5 MPa.